

Serial No. 09/734,701

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims are set forth below. Cancelled claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strike through~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (previously presented), (cancelled), (withdrawn), or (new).

Please AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

1. (CANCELED)
2. (CANCELED)
3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A display control system for data control during screen display operations, said system comprising:
 - a pointing device that indicates a position on a screen of a display unit; and
 - a deleting unit that, at intervals, successively deletes first elements of a graphic from a specified area of the screen at the indicated position and rearranges second elements of the graphic remaining in the specified area to provide an appearance that the second elements of data are gradually withdrawn from the specified area at the indicated position,
 - said deleting unit including a first speed control unit that automatically controls the speed of the intervals to be automatically performed followingly faster in accordance with successive deletions of the first elements, such that following intervals are made faster by decreasing a delay time thereof.
4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The display control system as claimed in claim 3, further comprising:
 - a completion indicating unit that displays a predetermined image at a specified position on the screen when all the second elements of the graphic have been deleted as first elements of the graphic.

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5. (CANCELED)

6. (CANCELED)

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable medium encoded with a program for controlling data display operations in a computer, said program comprising the functions of:

detecting a position on a screen of a display unit, the position being indicated by a pointing operation;

at intervals, successively deleting first elements of a graphic from a specified area of the screen at the indicated position, and rearranging second elements of the graphic remaining in the specified area, to provide an appearance that the second elements of the graphic are gradually withdrawn from the specified area at the indicated position; and

automatically controlling, by a speed control mechanism, a speed of the intervals to be automatically followingly faster during which the first elements of the graphic are successively deleted, such that following intervals are made faster by decreasing a delay time thereof.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 7, wherein said program further comprises the function of displaying a predetermined image at a specified position on the screen when all the second elements of the graphic have been deleted as first elements of the graphic.

9. (CANCELED)

10. (CANCELED)

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data processing apparatus using a computer specifically configured by execution of a program encoded on a computer-readable medium, the program controlling data display operations in a computer and including the functions of:

detecting a position on a screen of a display unit, the position being indicated by a pointing operation;

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at intervals, successively deleting first elements of a graphic from a specified area of the screen at the indicated position, and rearranging second elements of the graphic remaining in the specified area, to provide an appearance that the second elements of the graphic are gradually withdrawn from the specified area at the indicated position; and

automatically controlling, by a speed control mechanism, a speed of successive intervals to be automatically followingly faster during which the first elements of the graphic are successively deleted, such that following intervals are made faster by decreasing a delay time thereof.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The data processing apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the program further comprises the function of displaying a predetermined image at a specified position on the screen when all the second elements of the graphic have been deleted as first elements of the graphic.

13. (CANCELED)

14. (CANCELED)

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A display controller for data control during screen display operations, the controller comprising:

a deleting unit that, at intervals, automatically successively deletes first elements of a graphic from a specified area of a display screen at a position indicated by a pointing device and rearranges second elements of the graphic remaining in the specified area to provide an appearance that the second elements of the graphic are gradually withdrawn from the specified area,

said deleting unit including a first speed control unit that automatically controls a speed of the intervals to be automatically followingly faster during which the first elements are successively deleted, such that following intervals are made faster by decreasing a delay time thereof.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The display controller as claimed in claim 15, further comprising:

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a completion indicating unit that displays a predetermined image at a specified position on the screen when all the second elements of the graphic have been deleted as first elements of the graphic.

17. (CANCELED)

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A display controller for data control during screen display operations, said controller comprising:

a deleting unit that, at intervals, automatically successively deletes and rearranges elements of a graphic from a screen of a display unit at a position indicated by a pointing device to give an appearance of the elements being gradually withdrawn into the position; and

a speed control unit that automatically controls the speed of the intervals to be automatically followingly faster during which the elements of the graphic are successively deleted, such that following intervals are made faster by decreasing a delay time thereof.

19. (CANCELED)

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A display controller for data control during screen display operations, said controller comprising:

a restoring unit that, at intervals, automatically successively restores and rearranges elements of a graphic to a screen of a display unit at a position indicated by a pointing device to give an appearance of the graphic being expelled outward from the position; and

a speed control unit that automatically controls the speed of the intervals to be automatically followingly slower during which the elements of the graphic are successively restored to the screen, such that following intervals are made slower by increasing a delay time thereof.

21. (CANCELED)

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable medium encoded with a program for controlling data display operations in a computer, said program comprising the functions of:

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at intervals, automatically successively deleting elements of a graphic from a screen of a display unit at a position indicated by a pointing device to give an appearance of the graphic being withdrawn into the position; and

automatically controlling, by a speed control mechanism, the speed of the intervals to be automatically followingly faster during which the elements of the graphic are successively deleted, such that following intervals are made faster by decreasing a delay time thereof.

23. (CANCELED)

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable medium encoded with a program for controlling data display operations in a computer, said program comprising the functions of:

at intervals, automatically successively restoring elements of a graphic to a screen of a display unit at a position indicated by a pointing device to give an appearance of the image being expelled outward from the position; and

automatically controlling, by a speed control mechanism, the speed of the intervals to be automatically followingly slower during which the elements of the graphic are successively restored to the screen, such that following intervals are made slower by increasing a delay time thereof.

25. (CANCELED)

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A display controller for data control during screen display operations, said controller comprising:

a deleting unit that, at intervals, successively deletes elements of a graphic from a screen of a display unit at a position indicated by a pointing device to give an appearance of the graphic being withdrawn into the position; and

a speed control unit that automatically controls the speed of the intervals to be automatically followingly varied in speed during which the elements of the graphic are successively deleted, such that following intervals vary in speed by varying a delay time thereof.

27. (CANCELED)

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28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A display controller for data control during screen display operations, said controller comprising:

a restoring unit that, at intervals, successively restores elements of a graphic to a screen of a display unit at a position indicated by a pointing device to give an appearance of the graphic being expelled outward from the position; and

a speed control unit that automatically controls the speed of the intervals to be automatically followingly varied in speed during which the elements of the graphic are successively restored to the screen, such that following intervals vary in speed by varying a delay time thereof.

29. (CANCELED)

30. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable medium encoded with a program for controlling data display operations in a computer, said program comprising the functions of:

at intervals, automatically successively deleting elements of a graphic from a screen of a display unit at a position indicated by a pointing device to give an appearance of the image being withdrawn into the position; and

automatically controlling, by a speed control mechanism, the speed of the intervals to be automatically followingly varied during which the elements of the graphic are successively deleted, such that following intervals vary in speed by varying a delay time thereof.

31. (CANCELED)

32. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable medium encoded with a program for controlling data display operations in a computer, said program comprising the functions of:

at intervals, automatically successively restoring elements of a graphic to a screen of a display unit at a position indicated by a pointing device to give an appearance of the graphic being expelled outward from the position; and

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automatically controlling, by a speed control mechanism, the speed of the intervals to be automatically successively varied in speed during which the elements of the graphic are successively restored to the screen, such that following intervals vary in speed by varying a delay time thereof.

33. (CANCELED)

34. (CANCELED)

35. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for controlling data display operations, the method comprising:

detecting a position on a screen of a display unit, the position being indicated by a pointing operation;

at intervals, automatically successively deleting first elements of a graphic from a specified area of the screen at the indicated position, and rearranging second elements of the graphic remaining in the specified area, to provide an appearance that the second elements of the graphic are gradually withdrawn from the specified area at the indicated position; and

automatically controlling, by a speed control mechanism, the speed of the intervals to be automatically followingly faster during which the first elements of the graphic are successively deleted, such that following intervals are made faster by decreasing a delay time thereof.

36. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as claimed in claim 35, further comprising displaying a predetermined image at a specified position on the screen when all the second elements of the graphic have been deleted as first elements of the graphic.

37. (CANCELED)

38. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for controlling data display operations, the method comprising:

at intervals, automatically successively deleting elements of a graphic from a screen of a display unit at a position indicated by a pointing device to give an appearance of the graphic being withdrawn into the position; and

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automatically controlling, by a speed control mechanism, the speed of the intervals to be automatically followingly faster during which the elements of the graphic are successively deleted, such that following intervals are made faster by decreasing a delay time thereof.

39. (CANCELED)

40. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for controlling data display operations, the method comprising:

at intervals, automatically successively restoring elements of a graphic to a screen of a display unit at a position indicated by a pointing device to give an appearance of the graphic being expelled outward from the position; and

automatically controlling, by a speed control mechanism, the speed of the intervals to be automatically followingly slower during which the elements of the graphic are successively restored to the screen, such that following intervals are made slower by increasing a delay time thereof.

41. (CANCELED)

42. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for controlling data display operations, the method comprising:

by intervals, automatically successively deleting elements of data of a graphic item from a screen of a display unit and shifting non-deleted data elements thereof toward a position indicated by a pointing device to give an appearance of the graphic item being withdrawn into the position; and

automatically controlling, by a speed control mechanism, the time of the successive intervals to be followingly automatically decreased, as the elements of data are successively deleted, by decreasing a delay time thereof.

43. (CANCELED)

44. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for controlling data display operations, the method comprising:

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by intervals, automatically successively restoring elements of data of a graphic item to a screen of a display unit and shifting restored data elements thereof away from a position indicated by a pointing device to give an appearance of the graphic item being expelled outward from the position; and

automatically controlling, by a speed control mechanism, the times of the successive intervals to be followingly automatically increased, as the elements of data are successively restored to the screen, by increasing a delay time thereof.

45. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for erasing/restoring a graphic from/to a display, the method comprising:

responsive to a user command automatically controlling application of a graphic thinning/expanding process such that the thinning/expanding process is applied to the graphic with an automatically gradually ~~increasing/decreasing~~ increasing or decreasing rate of thinning, where an application of the thinning/expanding process ~~thins/adds-thins or adds~~ a ratio of current pixels in or to be added to the graphic, where the image has an appearance of being ~~sucked/spread like a fluid~~ withdrawn toward or expanded away from a point of convergence/restoration, and where the rate of the thinning/expanding process is ~~increased/decreased~~ increased or decreased by using a rate control mechanism that automatically ~~varying-varies~~ a factor that controls the rate.

46. (CANCELLED).